

April 10, 2020

Dear Parents,

Here we are finishing up the 4th week of distance learning. Every day we seem to find more challenges and every day we learn more about how to address all the issues associated with teaching students who are not sitting in our classrooms. It has been quite a learning experience for teachers, as I am sure it has been for you and your students as well.

We have received emails and/or phone calls from some parents feeling frustrated by the amount of work their student is being assigned each day. While we need to remember that our students regularly spend about 6 hours daily in school when we are in session, that does not necessarily equate the same amount of time when the work is done at home. We discussed the issue in our weekly faculty meeting this week and the teachers have come up with some ideas for adjustments. They have been asked to provide a weekly calendar that outlines the schedule of work for the week and the due dates. They have gone back to review their classwork to assure that it aligns with the 90 minutes per week policy. They have provided links to programs and websites that students need to access in order to complete the assignment.

Our administration has a checklist as to what the requirements and expectations are for teacher's Canvas sites. We will be reviewing sites weekly to make sure teachers' pages are complete and adhering to the distance learning policies. We will provide support for those teachers who are not able to adhere to the standards.

As parents, you may want to check grades weekly. The official grades for your student are in Gradebook, not Canvas. Please remember that with Proficiency Based Learning practices, only assessments are recorded in Gradebook, so a weekly check may give teachers the time to teach the content, assess and record. Questions about grades are best answered by teachers, so please contact them with questions.

Please communicate with your teachers as you feel you need to in order for them to provide the best and most effective education possible. Counselors and administrators are also available to help you through this process. We want to keep students engaged in their learning for the remainder of the school dismissal time.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Mary Anne Stevens, Principal